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Golden Agers mark
61 years — page 7



SPORTS
Are you ready
for the rivals? — page 12

ACAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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Marine veteran George Lapierre leads the contingent laying wreaths at Agawam's war memorial monuments on the Veterans Green on Nov. 11. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

WEST OF THE RIVER FAMILY CENTER

Former 'Y' is on the move

Nonprofit to throw in with Stick Time as red ink mounts

By Michael J. Ballway mballway@turlev.com

The West of the River Family Center hopes a move across the parking lot will stem declines in membership and revenues.

On Tuesday, the club's board of directors voted to leave 63 Springfield St., the former supermarket where the club has been located since being founded as a YMCA branch in 2014, and instead take up residence at Stick Time Sports, 153 Springfield St. The move will take place before the start of next year.

"It's either that or close," said Joseph Mineo, chairman of the board.

Membership numbers, which the YMCA considered unsustainable a year ago, have only de-

MOVE **I** page 6

COMPLETE STREETS

"eternally grateful" to the soldiers who fought

greatness of our nation, but what we owe to

'We have built monuments to signify the

for and protected those freedoms.

Sidewalks dominate discussion on infrastructure

By Michael J. Ballway mballway@turley.com

Sidewalks, sidewalks, crosswalks and sidewalks topped residents' wish lists at a roadwork prioritization meeting held this

week.
Town Engineer Michelle Chase hosted about 20 residents at a forum at the Agawam Public Library to discuss projects for the state's new Complete Streets program, which is intended to improve infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists and public transportation riders.

"We're getting plenty of ideas," Chase said Tuesday night. "We have more projects than funding for the rest of my career here."

At the Nov. 15 meeting, participants marked up several maps of the town with their suggestions for new sidewalks, bike lanes, stop signs and other improvements. Residents may also make suggestions on a "wiki-map," an interactive website, at wikimapping.com/wikimap/Agawam.html. Early next month, consultants from Howard Stein Hudson of Boston will compile these suggestions in to a priority list for the



during the ceremony.

Aldo Mancini, chairman of the Agawam

Veterans Council, received a certificate of ap-

VETERANS **I** page 10

Henry Kozlowski, left, talks about sidewalk needs with, from left, fellow Agawam residents Dave Conley and Laurie Chaisson, and transportation planner Casey Uy from Howard Stein Hudson. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Submitting a priority list would allow the town to apply for a \$400,000 Complete Streets grant, to be spent on one or more of the projects in the plan. Chase said it's not guaranteed that Agawam would receive the grant, but based on the criteria, the town has a strong chance. The grant could be renewed for another year at \$400,000, and the state currently plans to offer \$50,000 grants for

three additional years.

During those first two years, the grants would not cover design costs, so the town is more likely to spend money on "low- and no-design projects," said Elizabeth Flanagan, a transportation planner with Howard Stein Hudson. Sidewalk repairs generally do not require engineering, and even most

CITY COUNCIL

Tax shift increases bills for business

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

Business' share of the property tax burden in town is increasing

In a split vote last week, the Agawam City Council adopted a "tax shift" of 1.55, charging the owners of commercial and industrial properties 155 percent of what their tax bill would be if the town had a single property tax rate, and reducing residential tax rates accordingly. Under the new shift, rates in 2017 will be \$16.31 per \$1,000 valuation for residential properties, and \$31.12 for business property.

The new split, which follows Mayor Richard Cohen's recommendation, is an increase from last year's, which was 1.52. The split in 2015 was 1.48. Councilor Christopher Johnson and the Finance Subcommittee had proposed adopting a 1.50 split this year.

"When we received the accompanying information, I asked what the shift was back in 2000,"

said Johnson. "The separation between the residential and businesses was about \$5 or \$6. It has gotten bigger every year."

When it became clear the full council did not wish to reduce the split, Johnson made a compromise proposal for a tax shift of 1.53, but the amendment was defeated, 7-4.

The 1.55 tax shift found favor with eight of the 11 councilors. Councilors George Bitzas, Paul Cavallo, Gina Letellier, Joseph Mineo, Donald Rheault, Robert Rossi, Anthony Suffriti and Richard Theroux were in favor. Councilors Johnson and Cecilia Calabrese, and Council President James Cichetti, voted against the proposal.

Even with the tax shift, property tax rates on residential properties are still going up. The owner of an average home, valued at \$218,000, will see an increase of about \$121 over the course of a year. The average commercial and industrial properties valued

TAX **I** page 6



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CORRECTION

The winner of the popular vote for United States president was misstated in last week's Agawam Advertiser News.

Donald Trump was leading the race at the time the article ("Trump on Top in Local Vote," page 1) was written, but as ballots continued to be counted after Hillary Clinton's concession, she gained the popular though not electoral — vote advantage. Final numbers are not yet known, but as of Tuesday, Clinton was still in the lead and votes were still being counted.

Crafters sought for robotics team fundraiser

Crafters are wanted for the Holiday Craft Extravaganza hosted by Agawam Robotics Team 839, "The Velocity Raptors," Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St.

Tables will be provided at a cost of \$20 for one day or \$30 for both. A bake sale will also be part of the day's

For more information or to reserve a table, email velocityraptors839@gmail.com or call Alan at 413-237-5479.

Agawam Senior Center award winners announced

Joan Linnehan, Agawam Senior Center director, announced this year's winners of the Senior Center's Andrew Gallano, Friendship and Jim Griffin awards, to be given out at the Thanksgiving luncheon Friday, Nov. 18.

Mario and Mena Ronghi are the recipients of the Andrew Gallano Award, the Friendship Award will go to Helen Fontaine, and Terri-Ann Ouellette is the recipient of the Iim Griffin Award.

Citations will be presented to each individual from the offices of Mayor Richard Cohen, state Rep. Nick Boldyga and state Sen. Don Humason.

Family members are invited to attend the event, which is at 11:30 a.m. in the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam. Tickets are \$6 for lunch and music with Liz Carter; raffle tickets will also be sold.



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Grange to hold holiday bazaar next month

Community Grange 382 of Feeding Hills will hold a holiday bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 47 N. West St. in Feeding Hills. Members of the Grange have been busy making gift items, ornaments, wreaths and more. The bake sale will be bigger than last year's and will include the Grange's homemade baked beans. Paws-a-tively Delectable will be selling all-natural dog treats, bandanas and gift items along with knitted items by Joelle, Tastefully Simple, BlueDogs Craft and Decorative Painting by Peg Sullivan. All proceeds will benefit Grange activities and the public is invited to attend. For more information, call Pauline at 413-789-2061.







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Juried art show reception is Friday

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library's eighth Open Juried Art Show is on display at the Agawam Public Library through Nov. 25. The artwork may be seen Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, and can be reached by phone at 413-789-1550.

There were 59 works accepted from 100 entries. Steve Wilda and Sandra Wakeen, the judges, will be available at the Artist Reception and Awards Ceremony., 7-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18. They will give a talk about the show and will critique each winning entry as the image is displayed during the awards ceremony. The ceremony will also include music and light refreshments, and is free and open to the public.

There are 53 artists represented in the show. They come from Connecticut and Massachusetts.



"Monet's House," by Michele LaPalme of Agawam, won an honorable mention. TURLEY PUBLICA-TIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



Agawam High School boys volleyball players Bailey Cecchi, left, Zachary Goggin, and Ben Cassidy celebrate their Massachusetts State Championship win over Milford at Babson College on June 12, 2013. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local band plays fundraiser to send classmate to volleyball tourney

Former Agawam High School vollevball standout and NCAA Division III athlete Bailey Cecchi has been selected to represent his hometown, school and country as a member of the USA Athletes International Volleyball Team, set to compete at the 37700 DKV Tournament in Holland from May 15 to 24, 2017. A 2014 graduate of Agawam High School, Cecchi is the son of David and Laurie Cecchi of Agawam, and currently attends Sage College of Albany.

A dinner and concert has been planned to raise funds to offset the estimated \$5,000 travel expenses. The dinner will take place on Saturday, Nov. 26, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Italian Sporting Club, 349 Cooper St, Agawam. A concert by the band Farmhouse will take place immediately after the dinner, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling Laurie Cecchi at 413-505-9547. A pasta and meatball dinner will be served for \$15, which

includes concert admission. The evening will also include a Chinese raffle featuring baskets donated by local businesses. Tickets for a chance to win an eight-day, seven-night trip for two to Barbados sponsored by USAAI will also be available. After 7:30 pm, concert-only tickets will be available for \$10.

Farmhouse is composed of Cecchi's Agawam High School classmates Erek Brown on drums, vocalist Ashley Theroux, Tyler Roberts on bass and guitarist Alex Sours. The group will perform classic rock covers, funk and alter-

Cecchi was a member of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 Western Massachusetts champion Agawam High School boys volleyball teams and 2013 Massachusetts state champion team. In his senior year at AHS, he also received several individual honors, including number one outside hitter, All-State Team, and Massachusetts Player of the Year by the Massachusetts Boys High School Volleyball organization.

Cecchi is a junior at Sage College, where he is pursuing a business degree. He is an outside hitter and co-captain for the Sage Gators men's volleyball team, where he is currently number five on the school's career kill list with 571 after his sophomore year. Cecchi received Skyline Conference Rookie of the Week honors twice during his freshman year, and was named to the Skyline All-Conference Team his sophomore



"Memories of Black Point," an honorable mention, is one of two works exhibited by Lisa Smith of

Leonard Haug's "A Winter to Remember," at right, won best in show in the Open Juried Art Show on display at the Agawam Public Library.



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OUR VIEW

Try to shop small this holiday season

s the hustle and bustle of the holiday season gets underway, it's important to remember Lithe "little guy" when stocking up on stocking stuffers and piling up items to put under the tree.

The holiday season is a time when hearts are full of joy and shopping bags are full of goodies, and as we gather around dinner tables to give thanks for whatever our blessings may be, remember to show your appreciation for the small businesses that strengthen our communities.

The shopping holiday known as Small Business Saturday is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year, falling in between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Instead of focusing on big retailers and e-commerce stores, Small Business Saturday encourages shoppers to make purchases at small, local businesses. This year's Small Business Saturday falls on Nov. 26.

The holiday was founded by American Express in 2010, and according to the official Small Business Saturday website, the U.S. Senate officially recognized the holiday in 2011.

American Express stresses that the event is not meant to discourage people from shopping at larger chains or online retailers, but instead serves to encourage consumers to dedicate a portion of their holiday shopping budget to local businesses.

Neighborhood champions work to bolster awareness of the day and gain support among customers. They are business associations, state and local chambers of commerce, and other community organizers who are willing to commit to organizing events or activities to rally their neighborhoods for Small Business Saturday, according to the American Express website.

The champions receive event kits with branded merchandise meant to encourage patrons to think locally and shop small.

Statistically, small businesses give an average of 250 percent more in donations to local nonprofit groups than larger retailers give.

Small local business owners are friends and neighbors who rely on the community support to be successful. Small business owners live and work in the local community. They are parents of local students, volunteers at local community events and familiar faces around town.

The character of retail shopping districts is enhanced with a mix of retailers. What would our community be like if there were no small businesses? The landscape would not be the same without the shops that make towns unique.

Small retailers offer personal service and quality products at fair prices.

In addition, they offer the opportunity to reinvest in the community. When you shop at a small business, you support a local person or family who has undoubtedly supported local organizations, Scout troops, youth sports teams or other initiatives tenfold before.

Make a big impact this holiday season and remember to shop small.

What do you think? Share your thoughts in a letter to the editor at aan@turley.com.

Let us know

The Agawam Advertiser News, your community newspaper, welcomes letters, submissions, photographs and news tips from residents of Agawam and Feeding Hills.

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Advertising Representative John Baskin can be reached at jbaskin@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 305.

Managing Editor Michael J. Ballway can be reached at mballway@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 301.

Sports Editor David Forbes can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or 413-283-8393, ext.

Our office is open Monday through Thursday mornings, and other weekday times by appointment.



JAY SPEAKS

Remembering friends

Jay Berger

rene Hayward died recently. She was beans won. the wife of Chuck Hayward. They ran La travel program in conjunction with

the Springfield Museums and Quadrangle Association. Kitty and I went on several trips with them and enjoyed the way they handled everything. In addition, Kitty went with them on many Metropolitan Opera trips to New York City.

Chuck and I used to exercise together at the Springfield JCC. We would talk about many of his upcoming trips, and one that I had interest in with Kitty was to Costa Rica. The dates did not

work out for us, but we were a part of the Elder Hostel program, and they had a Costa Rica trip that went through the Christmas holiday period.

I spoke to Chuck about it and he said that he was very familiar with the trip and it covered the same areas as his program. Time went by and before we knew it, we had packed up and flew to Miami, where we met our group, and then on to San Jose, Costa Rica, where we met our hosts for the next 10 days.

The first couple of days we took short trips in and around San Jose to get acclimated, and then left for the rainforest. There we were ensconced in small cabins around a central dining tent. We took a ride above tree level to see the rainforest from up top, and then hiked through it at ground level.

At the end of the fourth day, our group (about 22 strong), along with our guide, were seated around the outside of the dining tent just gossiping about what we saw that day. We also were wondering whether the dinner would be rice and beans ... or woulld it be beans and rice. I think rice and

About that time there was the noise of someone running down the path to our

> encampment. The runner came into our circle carrying what looked like two bottles of wine, one in each hand. Attached to one bottle was a note. The runner, breathlessly, handed it to the nearest person. The note read, "This is for Kitty and Jay Berger."

> We stood up and accepted the bottles. I reached into my wallet for a couple of bills for the runner and then read the note. It read, "From Irene and Chuck

Hayward. Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah. This should be the second candle. Therefore two bottles ... Enjoy." Chuck and Irene knew their holidays.

The bottles, once opened, did not last very long. We toasted the Haywards for their generosity and marveled how they knew where we would be and had the wine delivered. That was Irene and Chuck. Generous in spirit and always reaching out in friendship.

When we returned to Springfield, I had to check with Chuck to see how he was doing with his tomato plants. He always grew them from seed and then in the spring put aside a half dozen plants for me to plant in our small garden. Irene was there and I thanked her for the gist and thoughtfulness

I told her how impressed people with us were at how she knew where we would be. She just smiled and said, "It's my secret."

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchil-

Letters to the Editor

America should stand united after election

The election is over now. The people spoke with their votes and they elected a president from the two choices they had. The winner was Mr. Trump. Now he is the president for all Americans — Republicans, Democrats, independents, white, Latinos, African-Americans, Asians, Muslims, Christians and all other denominations.

The office of the president of the United States deserves respect, whoever occupies the office. We must as Americans show our support and we should be united in the best interest of our country. United we stand strong: divided we are weak and we fall. We must accept the results of the election. The people who oppose Mr. Trump have a constitutional right to protest peacefully, not to protest by burning our flag, destroying people's property, blocking highways and assaulting people who support the new president-elect. This is not democracy, but rather anarchy with no respect of the law.

This is not the America that we want to live in and raise our families. We live in a beautiful, democratic, civilized country and we don't deserve to have these unlawful demonstrations and divisions. These demonstrations cannot change the results of the election; they only harm our country and innocent people.

It was wonderful to see President Obama, Secretary Clinton and President-elect Trump show respect for each other. We should all follow their example and show respect to each other. After all, we are all Americans.

> George Bitzas **Agawam City Councilor**



PHONE

413.786.7747 Fax: 413.786.8457

EMAIL

Advertising Sales John Baskin jbaskin@turley.com

Managing Editor Michael J. Ballway mballway@turley.com

> Office Manager Teri Machia aan@turley.com

Subscriptions Charlann Griswold cgriswold@turley.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters to the Editor

Early voters a testament to our fine town

I had the pleasure of working at the Agawam Town Hall for early voting. Vincent Gioscia and his staff were very helpful guiding us to make sure everything was running smooth. The mayor, Richard Cohen, greeted us with a big smile every morning, which made our day, and we passed that smile along to the voters.

The town residents were very respectful to each other. I often heard "Go ahead of me, I'm retired," being said to someone obviously dressed for work. I also heard, "You can go first. I've got all day," to a father or mother with their child. I heard "Please, come on up and sit here, it's open," to someone with a walker or that needed to rest, everyone in the line nodding in agreement to let that person pass them. The extra time in line didn't seem to matter as they watched the determined voter proceed to the booth.

I was impressed by the honesty I heard. "Wait! You left your cell phone." I even heard, "You forgot your pocketbook." I always heard, "Thank you, this was great," or "This was wonderful," being said on the way out. One lady said, "This felt as good as confession!"

It was very inspiring to see so many out to early vote, but even more heartwarming to see the kindness and compassion the town residents have for each other. I am proud to live in America, especially in our hometown of Agawam, a town where people take care of one

> Therese M. Clifford Feeding Hills

Band parents appreciate community support

The Agawam High School Band Parents Association would like to sincerely thank Stella and her staff at the Main Street Dunkin' Donuts. for their talented decorating of doughnuts for eighth grade band night. The high school and eighth grade bands enjoyed the football-themed doughnuts with cider after practice that evening.

We also wish to thank Betti

Boggis at Big Y for the generous pizza donations, and the staff at the Memorial Avenue Big Y in West Springfield for their help on Senior Night. Thank you for helping make those evenings special for our stu-

> Robyn Iserman **AHS Band Parents Association**

Lions Club fundraiser moving closer to goal

The Agawam Lions Club is proud to share that the Perry Lane "Tot Lot" project has raised nearly \$16,000 as of press date. All funds raised will be presented to the town of Agawam to modernize, expand and create accessibility for all to the site of the Perry Lane Tot Lot playground. The club, together with its supporters, is seeking to raise a total of \$25,000 for this project, which will tentatively commence during the summer of 2017. Following are the upcoming events that support this important project.

The Agawam Lions Club will have an informational table at Agawam Congregational Church, located at 745 Main St., Agawam, this Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the church's annual Holly Wreath Bazaar. The bazaar features children's activities, raffles, vendors, a café and more.

An evening of Dueling Pianos

will take place on Saturday, Nov. 26, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Visit www.chezjosef.com/events and use the discount code "TOTLOT" to receive \$5 off each ticket purchased. A portion of each ticket purchased using the abovementioned discount code will be donated to the Tot Lot project.

The club would like to express its sincere gratitude to the citizens, businesses, and schools of Agawam and beyond, for supporting the Agawam Lions Club on this important project. Together, we are investing in our youth. To stay up to date on the Perry Lane Tot Lot fundraising efforts and upcoming events, please follow the Agawam Lions Club on Facebook or visit www.agawamlions.org.

> **Cheryl Terramagra** Agawam Lions Club

<u>Obituary</u>

Robert A. Bruno, 45

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — The Bruno Family will be holding a celebration of life service and reception for Robert Angelo Bruno on Monday, Nov. 21, in Feeding

Robert Bruno passed away peacefully at his home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., on Sept. 6, 2016. Robert was born in Springfield on June 24, 1971, to Frank (Ciccio) Bruno and Severina Cerrato-Bruno. He was a graduate of Agawam High School and University of Miami.

He leaves behind his mother, Severina; a sister, Lisa of Springfield; and two brothers, Frank of Orlando, Fla., and Adolfo of Feeding Hills; as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He also leaves behind his beloved wife, Sarah Annmarie (Karkowski) and two children, Giovanni Francesco and Sienna Amelia of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

As the director of golf at Frenchman's Creek, Robert was well respected and an inspiration on and off the course, even with his battle with ALS. He will be forever known as "Bobby the Best the Man with the Million-Dollar Smile."

Family and friends are invited to attend the memorial service being held at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills at 6 p.m., with a reception immediately following at Crestview Country Club. The family would also like to thank everyone for all the love, well wishes and support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Robert Bruno ALS Fund, 13495 Tournament Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

DEATH NOTICES

Barrett, Raymond A.

Died Nov. 11 Funeral Nov. 17 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

Belden, Siglinda F.

Died Nov. 8 Memorial service Nov. 16 Curran-Jones Funeral Home West Springfield

Bruno, Robert A.

Died Sept. 6 Memorial Service Nov. 21 Sacred Heart Church Feeding Hills

Hoague, James

Died Nov. 1 Private hurial Byron Keenan Funeral Home and Cremation Tribute Center Springfield

Prefontaine, Joanne M.

Died Nov. 6 Private funeral Sampson Funeral Home Springfield

Stawasz, Kenneth G.

Died Nov. 3 Private funeral Agawam Funeral Home

Tucci, Beniamino G.

Funeral Nov. 16 Agawam Funeral Home

Funeral Nov. 14 Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

School Committee meeting

Roberta G. Doering School 68 Main St. Tuesday, Nov. 22 — 7 p.m.

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Executive session 6:15 p.m. (Negotiations and personnel)
- 3. Moment of silence
- 4. Roll call of attendance
- 5. Regular meeting 7 p.m.
- 6. Citizen's Speak Time
- 7. Highlights on Education: M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence Award
- a. Bianca Toto and Roman Yusenko
- 8. Superintendent's Notes
- 9. Student Advisory Committee representative update
- 10. Unfinished business:
- a. SCR-16-28, Approval of AHS graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 1 p.m. at Symphony Hall
- 11. Business meeting
- a. Routine matters
- 1) Approval of minutes 2) Calendar/Correspondence
- b. Warrants/Transfers
- c. Reports:
- 1). Scheduled reports: * Personnel update (paper report)
- * Home School Update (paper report)
- * Financial update R. Clickstein
- * MCAS Score Dr. LeClair * AP & SAT scores (paper report)
- 2) Subcommittee updates
- 12. New business: None
- 13. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
- 14. Adjournment

Whelihan, Shirley Died Nov. 9

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices &

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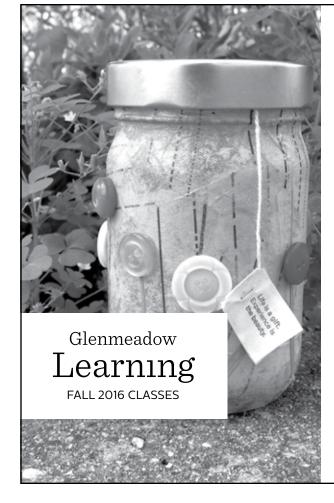
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Inviting Creativity: A Crafty Workshop on the Benefits of Upcycling

Tuesday, November 29, 10 a.m.-noon Agawam Public Library 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA

Join us as crafter Amber Ladley discusses the benefits that creativity can bring to your life. Find potential in unexpected materials, and create a gratitude jar to hold your thoughts and memories. Select from the materials Amber will provide, or bring

Programs are free and open to the public, but space is limited and reservations are required. To enroll, call 413.567.7800 or e-mail learning@glenmeadow.org.

Visit glenmeadow.org/learning. Glenmeadow

Bank hosts 'Giving Tree' for DCF families

Berkshire Bank employees have teamed up with the state Department of Children and Families to collect gifts for local families in need, through Dec. 16.

All are welcome to participate by stopping by a bank office and choosing items from the Giving Tree. Donations can be dropped off at any Berkshire Bank location in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties through Dec. 16. Berkshire Bank has local branches at 820 Suffield St., Agawam, and 1359 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

Donations may also be purchased at yougivegoods.com/berkshirebank through Dec. 6. Online purchases are 100 percent tax-deductible.

Bank employees will also volunteer their time with a variety of local non-profit organizations during the holiday season, including Wreaths Across America and the Salvation Army. Berkshire Bank Foundation, the charitable arm of Berkshire Bank, also plans to contribute grants to local nonprofit organizations serving those in need this holiday season.

MOVE ■ from page 1

clined since the Family Center reopened as an independent agency. In the meantime, although the landlord of the former Food Mart plaza has reduced their rent, it is still higher than the club can afford. Mineo said.

Mineo said details about how much space the Family Center would occupy in its new location, and how it would be configured, have yet to be confirmed. The current plan is to locate the Family Center on the hockey rink side of Stick Time.

The new Family Center will continue to offer a fitness gym and space for classes, Mineo said. The fitness equipment will change, however, as the Family Center plans to stop leasing ex-YMCA equipment and instead find its own, another decision driven by the need to balance the budget.

Mineo said the Family Center currently has \$20,000 in monthly bills and just \$8,000 in monthly revenues. The difference is paid by the Valley Opportunity Council, a Holyoke-based nonprofit that stepped in to partner with the local advisory board to keep the Family Center open when the YMCA dropped its affiliation earlier this

"VOC's been very good to us," Mineo said. "Without them we wouldn't be able to keep the doors open. ... [But] they're not going to be able to support us forever."

Mineo said the Family Center plans to offer the same services and classes at its new location. He said he hopes being in

the same building as Stick Time will attract new members. Parents of children whose teams practice at Stick Time, for example, might choose to work out at the West of the River Family Center rather than sitting idle while their children are with teammates. He also said the Family Center may be able to use Stick Time's indoor fields for their own programs.

They're going to piggyback off of us, and we're going to piggyback off of them," Mineo said. "I think it'll be a home run for

The West of the River Family Center has been operating as an independent agency since June, carrying on in the same space - and with largely the same staff and same programs — as the former Agawam YMCA Wellness and Program Family Center. The Agawam Y was founded in October 2014 by the Greater Springfield YMCA after a board of local businesspeople and politicians campaigned for a community center in town. In March of this year, however, the Springfield Y abruptly announced it would close the Agawam branch at the end of May, citing low membership and fundraising levels. At the time, the Agawam Y had 550 member households; this number had declined to 450 by the time the YMCA pulled out. In September, the West of the River Family Center reported it was down to 250 member households.

10 26 36 60 63

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Adenosine triphosphate
- 4. Plane 7. Plant cultivated for
- its tubers
- 10. Wreath
- 11. Equal, prefix 12. Type of fish
- 13. Measuring instrument
- 15. High-pitched crying
- noise
- 16. Chilean seaport
- 19. Make in advance
- 21. Where planes land and take off
- Nicaraguan capital
- 24. Reprint 25. Evergreen genus
- 26. Vale
- 27. Not the most dry
- 30. There are four of them
- 34. Pie _ _ mode

35. At or near the stern

- 36. Attached to the side of a motorcycle
- 41. Soft-bodied beetle 45. "Rule, Britannia"
- composer 46. __ of March: rough day for Julius
- Caesar 47. A way of changing
- taste
- 50. Bubbled up
- 54. Remedy
- 55. Barrooms
- 56. Henry Clay ___,
- industrialist 57. A citizen of Thailand
- 59. Cove
- 60. One and only
- 61. '__ death do us part
- 62. Zero
- 63. Thus far
- 64. Brew 65. Crunches federal numbers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. John ___, Pilgrim settler
- 2. Drink table on wheels
- 3. A canoe
- 4. Baseball player
- nicknamed "Kitty" 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Direction of attention 7. Egg-shaped wind
- instrument 8. Cadavers
- 9. Farewell 13. Revolutions per
- minute 14. Small constellation
- 17. Vineyard 18. Consumed
- 20. Pitchers need to get them 22. Educational assn.
- (abbr.) 27. No longer is
- 28. Peyton's little

brother 29. Small amount

- 31. An awkward stupid
- person
- 32. Popular pro sports league
- 33. Pigpen 37. Type of head pain
- 38. "Jiminy" is one
- 39. Diarist Frank 40. Boat race
- 41. Can be split 42. Thought
- 43. Staggering 44. Baltic country
- 47. Sunscreen rating
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Togetherness 51. Beat-influenced poet
- Anselm 52. Midway between
- northeast and east 53. Fall back, spring forward
- 58. Afflict

Lions provide free eye screenings to preschools

During the first week of November, members of the Agawam Lions Club, together with members of Massachusetts Lions District 33Y, provided free, non-invasive eye screenings to children at the Agawam Early Childhood Center and Perry Lane Nursery School in Agawam.

Screenings were performed using a Welch-Allyn Spot vision screener, which is a handheld, portable device similar in size and shape to that of an ordinary camera. Spot vision screeners are "touchless" and assess the eyes in mere seconds, from a distance of approximately 3 feet. The device can quickly detect a multitude of eye issues and conditions such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, blurred vision, unequal refractive power and eye misalignment.

The Spot vision screener emits a gentle chirping sound, and features a small grid of changing lights that help engage children's attention so that their eyes can be evaluated. Since Spot vision screenings require no feedback or participation, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends Spot as an alternative to screening with traditional vision charts for ages 3-5.

Children either "pass" the test or are recommended for a followup with an eye care professional such as an optometrist or an ophthalmologist. Lions may be able to help parents or guardians who are unable to afford or secure a follow-up examination by an eye care professional. To determine eligibility for assistance with eye care, visit www.agawamlions.org or contact Agawam Lions Club member Richard Lanier at 413-335-5434 or ddlan316@hotmail.com.

For information on upcoming free Spot screening events in and around our community, follow the Agawam Lions Club on Facebook. Lions Clubs International has worked since 1917 to prevent blindness, restore eyesight, improve eye health and create access to eye care for millions worldwide.

TAX ■ from page 1

under \$500,000 will see an increase of \$252, and the average commercial and industrial property over \$500,000 will see an increase of \$1,736 this year.

Theroux said even with a large increase in business tax bills, the rates are still lower than surrounding towns. Data provided by Cohen and Assessor Kevin Baldini show that Agawam's new rates for fiscal 2017 are lower than the fiscal 2016 tax rates in Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, West Springfield and Westfield, all of which have split tax rates.

"I don't believe these businesses are going to be leaving town on us," said Theroux. "Our tax rate is still lower."

Theroux also said that while businesses have the ability to increase prices or find other ways to absorb additional tax costs, residents, especially seniors on fixed incomes, do not have those same resources to absorb tax increases.

"For some residents, a \$121 increase can break them," said Rheault.

Robin Wozniak, the executive director of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce, advocated for Agawam businesses, saying the businesses cannot absorb such a big increase.

"Businesses are taking on a lot of added costs, like sick leave and minimum wage increases," said Wozniak. "We need the tax rate to be fair."

Agawam's tax rates last year were \$16.18 and \$29.98

There are 7,722 total residential parcels, Baldini's research shows. Nearly 5,000 fall at or below the average tax increase of \$121. Baldini said property values rose about 2.7 percent from last year, while commercial and industrial properties did not see value

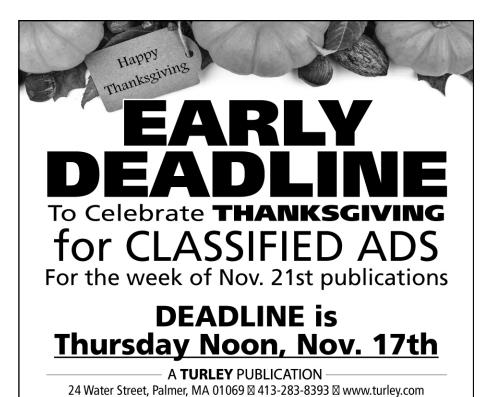
A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you, who are in all instances of my life with me. I. in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After third day wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. I will never stop trusting God and His power. D.D.



NOTIC

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



Public Safety

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 77 EMS calls from Nov. 1 to Nov. 7, and the following emergency response calls

On Nov. 1 at 10:38 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On Nov. 1 at 10:51 a.m., the department responded to Poinsetta Street for cooking fire, confined to container. On Nov. 1 at 11:09 a.m., the department responded

to Line Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries. On Nov. 1 at 12:15 p.m., the department responded to Robin Lane for building fire.

On Nov. 1 at 7:46 p.m., the department responded to Dartmouth Street for good intent call, other.

On Nov. 1 at 10:03 p.m., the department responded to Roosevelt Avenue for smoke scare, odor of smoke. On Nov. 2 at 12:13 p.m., the department responded

to Leonard Street to assist invalid. On Nov. 2 at 4:37 p.m., the department responded to S. Westfield Street for alarm system activation, no fire

 unintentional. On Nov. 2 at 9:10 p.m., the department responded to Shelley Lane for hazardous condition, other.

On Nov. 3 at 7:33 a.m., the department responded to River Street for structure fire, other (conversion only). On Nov. 3 at 11:28 a.m., the department responded to Perry Lane for alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional.

On Nov. 3 at 8:46 p.m., the department responded to Cherry Street to assist invalid.

On Nov. 3 at 11:38 p.m., the department responded

to South Street for public service assistance, other. On Nov. 5 at 1:03 a.m., the department responded to

Barbara Lane for public service assistance, other. On Nov. 5 at 10:41 a.m., the department responded to Highland Avenue for public service.

On Nov. 5 at 1:46 p.m., the department responded to

Liberty Street for unauthorized burning. On Nov. 5 at 6:24 p.m., the department responded to Highland Street for public service assistance, other.

On Nov. 6 at 9:11 p.m., the department responded to Maple Street for lockout.

On Nov. 6 at 9:27 p.m., the department responded to Roberta Circle for CO detector activation due to mal-

On Nov. 6 at 9:30 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for good intent call, other.

On Nov. 7 at 6:16 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for good intent call, other.

On Nov. 7 at 8:59 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for smoke or odor removal.

On Nov. 7 at 5:46 p.m., the department responded to Meadow Street Ext. for motor vehicle accident with

On Nov. 7 at 7:06 p.m., the department responded to Kensington Street to assist invalid.

POLICE LOG

Arrest logs were not received from the Agawam Police Department in time for this week's press deadline.

Gently used toys wanted for first toy exchange

Agawam High School's National Honor Society and Agawam's Zero Waste Club are co-hosting a Holiday Used Toy Exchange. This event is being created to become a source of holiday gifts for residents on tight budgets, as well as increase the lifespan of consumer goods which are discarded long before their usefulness is waned.

Gently used, clean, working toys will be collected at the Agawam Public Library on Friday, Dec. 2, from noon to 5:30 p.m. Gently used toys wanted include musical instruments, action figures, dolls, sports equipment, books, bicycles, electronics, video games, DVDs, stuffed animals, model kits, art supplies, building toys, creative learning toys, outdoor toys and structures, games, puzzles, and baby toys. Please, no dirty, broken or incomplete toys. All donations will be prescreened before donators

General public free shopping of these gently used toys will be on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. until noon. Adults are asked not to bring children into the shopping area, to preserve their holiday surprise; activities for children will be available in the Children's Center while adults shop.

In order to share with as many families as possible, families will be limited to an amount they are able to carry in one trip to their vehicle. Be sure to bring a reusable shopping bag; this is a zero-waste event.

Any toys remaining will be donated to a local charity. For further information, visit www.agawam.ma.us under the events column, email helgathehen@gmail.com, or call Nancy Bobskill at 413-285-2182.

Notes from the Music Room

t's been nearly two years since I had my "Notes" in this paper. I am excited Lto once again contribute some arti-

cles about the activities and events of this year's Agawam Senior Center Chorus.

Our chorus is now under the direction of William Beard, who has been a chorus member for many years. I am serving as assistant director and consultant for this organization.

To "get back to brass tacks," the Senior Center Chorus is putting together a concert of songs from the musicals "Annie Get Your Gun" and "The Sound of Muisc." These

snows were produced at Agawam High School when I was the music teacher and band director. Were are planning on

> a performance date some time in the early spring at the Senior Center. We will be sharing more details of music events by the Senior Center Chorus in future articles.

> The Senior Center Chorus rehearses every Tuesday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Our membership is open to anyone who loves music and loves to sing. Feel free to join us at any time

during the year.



businesses that support your local newspaper. Let them know you saw their ad in the Agawam Advertiser

Support the local

Christmas bazaar season in full swing Saturday

Several Agawam churches will host craft fairs, bake sales, vendor tables and visits from Santa Claus this weekend, including the following:

· Christmas Craft Bazaar at Sacred Heart Church, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The church is at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

· Holly Wreath Bazaar at Agawam Congregational Church, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Baked goods, gently use clothing and jewelry, attic treasures, knitted items, American Girl doll fashions, LuLaRoe clothing, Jafra and more, Pictures with Santa and other kids activities. Lunch available to purchase. The church is at 745 Main St.,

· Bazaar and Craft Fair at Heritage Hall, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. More than 50 vendors with jewelry, candles, ornaments, homemade items, baked goods, cosmetics and more. Lunch available to purchase. In all five campus buildings; enter at 462 Main St. or 55 Cooper St., Agawam.

• Christmas Bazaar at St. John the Evangelist Church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Baked goods, candy, knitting, Christmas decorations, books, attic treasures, jewelry, gift baskets. Lunch and snacks available to purchase. Santa visits 9 a.m. to noon. In the Parish Center behind the church at 833 Main St., Agawam.



Agawam Chapter 1 Golden Age Club officers, from left, Jan Riberdy, chaplain; Marie Fay, correspondence secretary; Diana Henderson, secretary; Joyce Asta-Ferrero, treasurer; Carol Rose, vice president; and Becky Washburn, president. Submitted photo

Chapter 1 Golden Age Club welcomes new members

Agawam Chapter 1 Golden Age Club celebrated its 60th anniversary last year and its 61st anniversary on Oct. 12. Present at the 61st anniversary party was Althea Cowles, the daughter of the club's first president, Levi Rivers. Presently, there are 75 members, 24 lifetime members and 42 active participants.

Chapter 1 held its 61st installation banquet April 13 at the Monte Carlo Restaurant in West Springfield. Forty-five members and guests were present and enjoyed a meal and entertainment provided by Noah Lis, who has performed nationally on "The Voice" as well as abroad.

Chapter 1 is always looking for visitors and new members. Activities include ongoing charitable contributions, guest speakers, entertainment, monthly bingo and special raffles for Thanksgiving and Easter.

Other events include banquets at the Monte Carlo Restaurant in April, the Millicent Barnard Annual Picnic at Sodom Mountain Campground in June, the October anniversary at the Agawam Senior Center and the Christmas banquet at Oak Ridge Country Club in December.

Many lasting friendships have begun simply by chance at the meetings, a time to chat and share 90 minutes twice per month. Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. All are welcome.

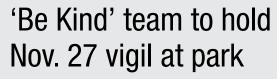
Pez author to discuss candy's history

Shawn Peterson will discuss his passion for all things Pez and the history of the company that makes it in a presentation based on his new book "PEZ: From Austrian Invention to American Icon" at the Agawam Library at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5.

In addition to Pez's colorful past, Peterson will share his own story, from initially picking up a few Pez dispensers at a flea market near his home in Kansas City, to later parlaying his interest into his dream job in Connecticut. He has a wealth of knowledge to share on the topic, from insights on some of the unusual or most sought-after collectibles to insider tips on collecting.

The company began in Austria in 1927, with an American division opening in the 1950s. Pez became an integral part of New England history with the opening of a factory in Orange, Conn., in the 1970s. Thanks to Peterson's pitch to the company's CEO, a colorful Pez Visitor Center was added to the Orange factory in 2011, with Peterson managing it. Along the way, he collected thousands of the candy dispensers, and enough familiarity with the topic to write three previous collector's guides.

Attendees are invited to bring a favorite Pez dispenser to the event and can take home a free Pez candy sample. To register for this event, call the library at 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www. agawamlibrary.org. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.



A "Be Kind" candlelight vigil will be held Sunday, Nov. 27, at 4:30 p.m. by the pavilion at School Street Park in Agawam. The "Be Kind" team will have ornaments available for purchase. All are invited.

The **Strain Family** EQUESTRIAN CENTER LLC 20 Vining Hill Road, Southwick, MA www.strainfamilyequestrian.com Boarding • Lessons • Training • Sales • Leasing **English & Western Riding Lessons Available**

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Youth

AHS Arts Festival set for Dec. 7

Agawam High School will hold its Winter Arts Festival Wednesday, Dec. 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The visual art exhibit will include sculpture, drawing and painting, work from the Arts Honor I and II classes, studio experience, digital photography, and mixed media.

Vocal performances will be provided by choral students, Tonal Tenacity, the Belle-Tones and Ear Candy.

Admission is \$5 per person. The high school is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.



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They'll also receive an autographed photo along with a special gift.

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Santa at Turley, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or call 413-283-8393 or email: cgriswold@turley.com, (Subject: Santa) for immediate assistance.

Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Nov. 21: Chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, seasoned vegetables, Tater Tots, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Chicken filet wrap with assorted sauce served with lettuce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Half day. No lunch service. Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving. No school. Friday, Nov. 25: No school.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL **AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Monday, Nov. 21: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, Goldfish crackers, seasoned vegetables, assorted fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie,

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Half day. No lunch service. Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving. No school. Friday, Nov. 25: No school.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS **AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU**

Monday, Nov. 21: Assorted low-sugar cereal, stuffed bagel sticks, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk Tuesday, Nov. 22: Assorted low-sugar cereal, assorted nutrigrain

bars, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk. Wednesday, Nov. 23: Assorted low-sugar cereal, warm cinnamon roll, mozzarella cheese, assorted muffins, juice or milk

Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving. No school.

Friday, Nov. 25: No school.

Chamber announces Career Day at AJHS

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Agawam Junior High School, will sponsor its annual Career Day Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 a.m.

The Career Day focuses on bringing local business owners and specialty trade members to educate the students on opportunities in various fields of work. The students sign up for selected seminars on skilled trades that they are interested in learning more about.

It offers the students an insight on numerous opportunities for potential careers. Similar events are held at Agawam High School, West Springfield High School and the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative in conjunction with the West of the River Chamber of Commerce in May and June every year.

K of C Breakfast With Santa is Nov. 27

The Agawam Knights of Columbus Council 5585 will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Nov. 27. It will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. This will be a free will donation event. For more information, call Bill Tessicini at 413-789-0540.

AHS COUNSELING BULLETIN

Visiting college representatives

Students interested in meeting with any of the college or university representatives that will be visiting Agawam High School must sign up at least one day in advance in the Counseling Center.

Nov. 18: 9:20 a.m., Johnson & Wales University.

Open houses

Many colleges are hosting events in the next few weeks. Check the Counseling Center for more information.

Special interest programs

The American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid applications, both in-person, at Centers and over the phone (877-33-.4348). Additionally, the Boston College Planning Center is holding FAFSA Workshops every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. and Federal Student Aid ID Workshops every Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. More information is available by calling Kristi Pierce at 617-728-4608.

New England Institute of Technology will be hosting a series of Career Education Days to help students learn more about their potential careers Construction Day, Nov. 18; Engineering and Communications Day, March 3; Health Day, April 7. To register for any of these events go to NEIT.edu/ CareerEducation.

Westfield State University is offering early college access to high school students. Eligible students must have a "B" average or better in their high school classes in order to be eligible. Students wishing to pursue dual enrollment must meet all eligibility criteria which can be found at mass.edu/strategic/read_cdep.asp.The deadline for Spring 2017 is Dec. 9. The reduced tuition for a three-credit course is \$636 and a four-credit course is \$848.

Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College are again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take

up to one free course in each semester through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. See your counselor for details

Elms College is offering the Advanced Placement Program to qualified students. Tuition is waived and students pay only a registration fee of \$20 and a technology fee of \$50. Registration for the spring 2017 semester should be submitted before Jan. 17. For more information, contact the registrar at 413-265-2314.

Are you a young entrepreneur? Graduating high school seniors who operate their own small business are eligible to receive a 2017 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award from the NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation. Visit NFIB. com/YEA for more information and to apply online between by Dec. 18.

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: Hendry David Thoreau Foundation; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program; Make College Happen Challenge; 2017 Profile in Courage Essay; Elon Teaching Fellows Program; Skidmore College; Ronald McDonald House Charities US Scholarship Program; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Big Y Scholarship; American College Foundation; Darcy B. Davis Scholarship; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Business Professional Scholarship.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.



STREETS **■** from page 1 new sidewalk installations require only minimal design work.

Complete Streets grants also cannot currently be used on state-owned roads, which in Agawam include Main Street, River Road and Route 57. Springfield, Suffield and North and South Westfield streets, even though they are numbered as state routes, are owned by the town.

Nonetheless, Flanagan encouraged residents to list all of their transportation wishes, in case the town were able to secure a different grant for some work, or in case the state changes its rules in the future.

"If something's not on this list now, it's really difficult to add it to the list in three years," she said.

Flanagan said Complete Streets funds will pay for infrastructure, but not services. One of the suggestions on the online map, a new circulator bus route in town, would not be eligible for grant funding.

As part of the meeting, the audience split into groups of two to four people who discussed their own proposals and marked them on a map.

Agawam resident Dick Lanier reported that his group was concerned about the sidewalks in older subdivisions. Developers are required to install sidewalks on residential streets, said Lanier, but the town often does not maintain the walks.

He also said Pine Street, a favorite route for cyclists, is unsafe for anyone but motorists. He suggested that if the town does not have the funds to install bike lanes on Route 187, it should at least put up signs directing cyclists to cut across Barry Street to South Westfield Street, and follow South Westfield Street north to bypass Pine Street.

Two of the groups said the town needs better crosswalks in key locations: across North Street at the main entrance to Robinson State Park, where traffic is climbing a hill and visibility is low; and across River Road at intermediate points along the Riverwalk, to better connect that trail with the adjoining neighborhood.

The complaint about Robinson State Park is nothing new, said Chase, but she was glad to hear it.

"I've always known there's a sight-distance issue there," Chase said, but "it feels more urgent now, hearing people say that."

By far the most frequent request, however, was for new sidewalks, including:

• Corey Street

- Main Street, from River Road to Six
- Meadow Street
- · Mill Street, from the high school to Suffield Street
- · North Street, to allow safer access to Robinson State Park
 - North Westfield Street
 - School Street, to fill gaps
- · South Street, for access to James Clark School

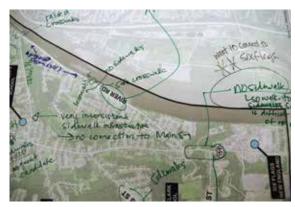
Some participants asked about im-

provements to Feeding Hills Center and the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge. Both reconstruction projects are on the state's funding list, separate from Complete Streets, and planned for fiscal 2018, the year beginning July 1, 2017. The bridge work, which will also reconstruct the intersections of Springfield and Walnut streets, and Main, Springfield and Suffield streets, will be built with the "complete streets" philosophy in mind, including a bicycle lane on Springfield Street and over the bridge.



ABOVE: Feeding Hills resident William Clark, right, points to Springfield Street while talking about the need for better sidewalks on Nov. 15. Listening are Taylor Newton of Agawam, center, and Andreas Wolfe from Howard Stein Hudson, TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J

RIGHT: A close-up view of southeastern Agawam on one of the work session maps shows requests for sidewalks on Adams, Leonard, Main, School and South streets.





20th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30am - 4pm

Supporting the Boys and Girls Club of West Springfield

\$20 TOUR TICKETS

In Agawam/Feeding Hills:

Cooper's Gifts Floral Concepts By Tom Partners Restaurant

> In Westfield: Pilgrim Candle

In West Springfield:

Durocher Florist Flowers By Webster Northeast Security Solutions Partners at The Cup Sorrento Pizza W.S. Federal Credit Union Western Growers

(Nov. 18th- Dec. 3rd ONLY!) Boys and Girls Club of W.S.

For More Info Call: 736-1831 www.wsbgclub.org

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11:00 am - 2:00 pm (includes tax & gratuity)





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VETERANS ■ from page 1

preciation from Veterans Services Director Richard Girard and the mayor. Girard said Mancini, and his council, put in hours of work on the town Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances.

"There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes," Girard said.

In particular, Girard said he is impressed at the Veterans Council's prompt attention to any complaints about the condition of the flags displayed on utility poles along Main Street. When someone calls to say a flag needs to be replaced, said Girard, it's always done — by Mancini or one of his volunteers — within a day.

George Gabriel of Lexington, Mass., was belatedly recognized as the marshal of the 2016 Memorial Day Parade in town. Gabriel, a Navy veteran of the Pacific Theater of World War II, had been slated to lead the parade in May, but it was canceled because of forecasted inclement weather.

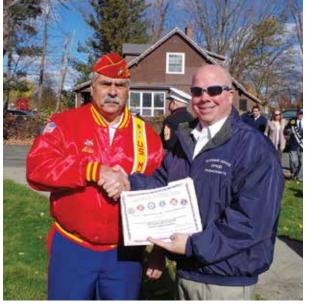
After returning from the war, Gabriel went to hairdressing school and opened a salon in Lexington. He was also active in the local Lions Club and March of Dimes. His interest in Revolutionary War history led him to help organize the first Patriots Day re-enactment of the Battle of Lexington, on the same town green where the 1775 battle took place, in 1971. He took on the role of Capt. John Parker, one of the Minutemen; other re-enactors represented other Minutemen and British soldiers from the 10th Regiment. The re-enactment is still held annually every April.

Gabriel also marched in the inauguration parades for presidents John F. Kennedy and James Carter, and stood at attention when President Gerald Ford placed a wreath at the Lexington Green Monument during the 1976 United States Bicentennial.

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, also spoke at Friday's ceremony. Bob Olmstead, a senior elder at Lighthouse Christian Church in Feeding Hills, gave the $\,$ invocation. Daniel Dobek of Agawam sang "God Bless America."



Mayor Richard Cohen, left, and Veterans Council Chairman Aldo Mancini, right, honor World War II veteran George Gabriel, of Lexington, Mass., on Veterans Day. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL



Agawam Veterans Services Director Richard Girard, right, congratulates Veterans Council Chairman Aldo Mancini, who was recognized on Veterans Day with a certificate of appreciation.



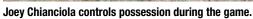
The wreath-laying detail lines up during the Veterans Day ceremony. The detail included Marine veterans Ron Hamel and George Lapierre, and Navy veterans Drew Pajale, Frank Pignatare and Robert Rossi.



The American Legion performs a gun salute the Veterans Day service in Agawam on Nov. 11.



School. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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Jayden Rubio dribbles up the field.



Zackary Hollister of "Arsenal," center left, tries to keep the ball away from "Barcelona" players. The teams consisted of 1st and 2nd graders from Agawam.









FOOTBALL

Brownies seek fifth straight holiday victory

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam has brand new home turf, but it will have to wait until next year to host the "biggest game of the year."

On Thanksgiving, the Agawam High School football team will face West Springfield in a game that continues to surpass the normal expectations of either school. It's is the 92nd time the teams have had a Thanksgiving Day game. Agawam holds a commanding lead in the all-time series, with 62 wins, 26 losses, and three ties. The Brownies are also currently riding a four-year winning streak. Prior to that, West Springfield won four straight from 2008 to 2011.

Last year, the Brownies outlasted rival West Springfield 34-32. West Springfield's defense was the star of the first half and early second half. But Agawam's offense found its way late in the game to sneak away with the win. In the fourth quarter, Williams scored on a 41-yard run with 8:54 remaining. The score would give Agawam its first lead of the day, 27-24. Agawam's defense was able to stop West Springfield again and Morassi added a big insurance score with 1:38 remaining in the game. Morassi had the big day for Agawam, rushing for 169 yards on 17 carries with two touchdowns. Scuderi ran for 49 yards on 12 carries, and Williams had two carries for 42 yards.

Both teams are coming off seasons that were the opposite of their respective results last year. West Springfield was not a playoff team last year, but reached the Western Massachusetts Division 2 champion-

FOOTBALL **I** page 13



The Agawam High School football team meets West Springfield on Thanksgiving for the 92nd time. Agawam currently holds a four-game winning streak and owns the all-time series lead. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

FIELD HOCKEY

Agawam comes up short in final game

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

WEST SPRINGFIELD – It came down to just one goal again as the Minnechaug Regional High School field hockey team advanced to the Western Massachusetts Division I Championship game with a 3-2 victory over Agawam last Wednesday night at West Springfield High School.

Agawam and Minnechaug have had some fierce battles this season already with a scoreless draw and a 3-2 win for the Falcons in late October.

Minnechaug took advantage of some defensive miscues in the middle of the game to grab an insurance goal in the second half to take a 3-1 lead.

Agawam made a huge push at the end of the game, but the Falcon defense held on in the final few minutes to get the win.

Up 2-1, Minnechaug would grab a goal in transition with Karalyn Jones sending a pass to Kayla Anderson. Anderson took a shot and hit the goal near the left post to give the Falcons a 3-1 lead about 16 minutes to play in the final frame.

"We were not properly aligned on defense," said Agawam coach Karen Gomez. "That is an adjustment I should have made and I take responsibility for it."

But Gomez's players did not give up at all. The Brownies played to the better end, scoring penalty corners throughout the final 15 minutes of the game.

The Brownies broke through with five minutes remaining as



Bianca Toto tries to defend against Minnechaug's Karalyn Jones. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Nina Bruno makes a run up the field.

BOYS SOCCER



Luis Nieves serves the ball toward the Minnechaug goal. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY PETER FIDALGO WWW.PETERFIDALGOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Falcons top Brownies in quarters

By Nate Rosenthal

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug boys soccer team has been on a roll since the beginning of the 2016 campaign. And they kept up the pace with a 4-1 win over Agawam in the West Division 1 quarterfinals. The game was scoreless for the first 36 and half minutes before the Falcons broke the ice. By the midpoint of the second half, they had a 3-0 lead. After the Brownies scored, the Falcons got that back in short order and put the game away.

Minnechaug started slowly and did not have a shot of any kind for the first 11 minutes. Agawam did have some opportunities. After the Falcons scored with 3:23 left in the half, they carried that through into the second half and added two more by the 17th minute. Agawam broke the shutout in the 21st minute and it remained that way until there were but eight minutes to play. Minnechaug got their fourth goal and cruised home.

It has been a big year thus far for the Falcons. They won their first seven and did not let up even a goal until the sixth game. The only blemish on their record came in the middle of the season when they were beaten by Ludlow and tied by Pittsfield. They ended the regular season with a seen game win streak. Minnechaug earned the top seed and a bye. with a record of 16-1-1. Agawam

SOCCER ■ page 14

FIELD HOCKEY **■** page 14

Brownies upset by Minnechaug in semifinals

By Gregory A. Scibelli ascibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM - The Minnechaug Regional High School volleyball team came to Agawam looking to avenge a 3-0 shutout near the end of the regular season.

They did just that as the No. 3 Falcons came to No. 2 Agawam and overcame the Brownies in a 3-1 victory in the semifinals of the Western Massachusetts Division II Tournament.

Agawam breezed through the first phase of competition as they defeated Pittsfield 3-1 in the quarterfinals, but struggled against Minnechaug. The teams split two meetings this season with Agawam winning the last meeting.

Agawam would trail 2-0, but came back to win the third game and almost won the fourth set to force a fifth deciding set.

But the Falcons decided the game right then and there.

Agawam held a number of leads in the fourth set, though the Falcons made it close. Agawam then managed to grab a few extra points to take a 15-12 lead. Minnechaug made their move, starting with a good soft touch by Zoe Tatro to start their comeback. They would tie the score 15-15, then went on to score eight unanswered points thanks to three Agawam hits out of bounds, a couple of kills by Tatro, and a big block by Saida Gamidova.

Agawam got a couple of points back, but the Falcons would manage to finish it the finals against Amherst.

The Brownies came out and dominated the early going of the first game, but eventually fell behind 11-9 and stayed behind the remainder of the game and lost 25-18.

In the second game, Agawam never led as Minnechaug took a 5-1 lead and just ran away with the score, eventually sending the Brownies to the brink with a 25-12 win.

Agawam regrouped, however, and jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the third game thanks in part to a pair of aces by Abbey Viens. The Brownies cruised through the third game much like Minnechaug did in the second, as they eventually took an 11-4 lead and later went to a 21-7 score.

The Falcons were able to come back with a couple of points to extend the third game, but Caroline Hitchcock made a spike to get the Brownies back on track. They eventually won 25-11 to keep the match going for Agawam.

Hitchcock had 12 kills and seven digs for the Brownies. Bianca Culhane had six kills, eight digs, and two aces as well as some great plays on defense. Viens finished with five kills and three aces. Madison Lockwood had 24 assists, five digs, and two aces in Agawam's final match of the year.

Tatro had a big night for the Falcons with 15 kills. Michaela Cronin had six kills. Meg Giordano had 28 assists and three

Agawam's season ended at 14-6 with a 13-5 regular season mark.



Bianca Culhane and Caroline Hitchcock attempt



Abbey Viens makes a hit over the net.



Sofiya Kirik serves for the Brownies. TURLEY PUB-LICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

FIELD HOCKEY ■ from page 12

Nicole Mercadante made a great run up the right side of the field. She went all the way from Agawam's defensive end to the Minnechaug circle. Mercadante would pass left in the center to an oncoming Nina Bruno. Bruno would receive the ball and slammed a shot into the goal to make it 3-2 Minnechaug with 4:59 left.



Nina Bruno heads toward the goal



Emily Oliver winds up to clear the ball.

Agawam got a big penalty corner opportunity about a minute later and the insert pass was re-directed three times before it was shot to the left of the goal.

Agawam then made one more attempt to score in the final minute, but the Falcons defense did a good job clearing out the ball with some long hits to finish off the game.

The Brownies took a 1-0 lead early in the game when Bruno ran down a loose ball in Minnechaug's end. She passed into the circle and a deflection off the stick of Kristen Fellion went in the goal.

But the Falcons tied the score several minutes later with a re-direct to Sarah Caltabiano, who found the left side of the goal to tie it at 1-1.

With 5:00 remaining in the first half, the Falcons took a lead with when a shot off Agawam goalie Nikki Bates' pads was followed by a shot by Melanie Ward to make it 2-1 at

Bates finished the game with 10 saves while Minnechaug goalie Samantha Falcone had five saves.

Agawam's season ended at 14-5-1 while the Falcons advanced to the finals to play Longmeadow last Friday after-

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Eliza Timms rushes up the field with the ball. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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Sports

FOOTBALL ■ from page 12

ship this year, losing to Westfield on Nov.

Agawam was a perfect 8-0 in the regular season last year, winning the Suburban League Championship for a third straight season. They would go to the Division 4 championship game and lose to Chicopee Comprehensive. It was their third straight year in a title game. This year was tougher for the Brownies. Agawam started out with a strong record, but lost three straight AA

Conference games and found itself out of the playoffs. The Brownies did win both of their games in non-playoff action the last two weeks, and have a 6-4 record heading into Thanksgiving.

Despite whatever their results are, both teams treat the game like its own event. Records do not matter, statistics don't count heading into the game. It is about the tradition of being on the football field on Thanksgiving.

Kickoff is set for 10 a.m. at Clark Field at West Springfield High School.

NameGradeNumberJoseph Stevens1160Jay Mitchell60Tyler Corliss100Jordan Shea0961Billy Mcquade22Nicholas Stacy105Paul Ober Jr0962Josue Rodriguez23Zachary Rollend126Paul Slinsky0963Dalen Hicks24Nicholas Rempp117Noah Lafountain0964Vaunell Hill27Gaberel Bodley098Getuar Preniqi0965Matt Mcquade Inj28Timothy Paltz129Jack Pouliot1266Calvin Curtis30Daniel Dobrowolski1010Zackary Godbout1067Milton Vasquez31Robert Mirolli1111Quinn Robinson1168Brogan Brodsky33Ryan White1112Matthew Dube1169Ryan Colbert36Zachary Pirnie1013Kevin O'Connell1070Eric Walz38Michael Basile1219Nathan Spafford1074Gabriel Thadison42Vincent Castro0920Cameron Lindsey1075Griffen Hovey50
Nicholas Stacy 10 5 Paul Ober Jr 09 62 Josue Rodriguez 23 Zachary Rollend 12 6 Paul Slinsky 09 63 Dalen Hicks 24 Nicholas Rempp 11 7 Noah Lafountain 09 64 Vaunell Hill 27 Gaberel Bodley 09 8 Getuar Preniqi 09 65 Matt Mcquade Inj 28 Timothy Paltz 12 9 Jack Pouliot 12 66 Calvin Curtis 30 Daniel Dobrowolski 10 10 Zackary Godbout 10 67 Milton Vasquez 31 Robert Mirolli 11 11 Quinn Robinson 11 68 Brogan Brodsky 33 Ryan White 11 12 Matthew Dube 11 69 Ryan Colbert 36 Zachary Pirnie 10 13 Kevin O'Connell 10 70 Eric Walz38 Michael Berthiaume 09 15 Zachary Hodges 12 71 Jean Serranno 40 Michael Basile 12 19 Nathan Spafford 10 74 Gabriel Thadison 42 Vincent Castro 09 20 Cameron Lindsey 10 75 Griffen Hovey 50
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Christopher Morassi 12 22 Bradley Montanez 12 77 Thomas Cecchetelli 53
Daryl Gagne 09 23 Kian O'Keefe 10 78 Travon Givens 54
Jared Durocher 10 27 Aidan Page 11 80 Jon Lazada 55
Ernesto Jimenez 10 29 Scott Duval 10 81 Tyler Parent 56
Parker Drake 09 30 Darian Reaves 11 83 Alphonse Ferrentino 57
Aiden Corriveau 10 32 Jason Couture 11 85 Derek Ventulett 58
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Joseph Dowd 10 55 Alay Alyanda 17
Santino Curto 11 56 Alex Alvarado 17 Ridvan Azizov 28

Agawam vs. West Springfield

	Agawam leads series 62	-26-3	1970:	Agawam	32-6
2015		34-32	1969:	Agawam	30-28
2014	3	38-36	1968:	Agawam	14-6
2013	J	19-18	1967:	Agawam	20-6
2012		50-36	1966:	Agawam	24-0
2012	S .	17-14	1965:	Agawam	32-8
2010		20-0	1964:	Agawam	34-8
2009		32-20	1963:	Agawam	22-2
2003		39-0	1962:	West Side	26-12
2007		34-27	1961:	West Side	12-8
2007	3	20-12 (OT)	1960:	West Side	48-8
2005		18-12	1950:	Agawam	41-0
2003	J	42-6	1958:	West Side	8-0
2004		30-8	1956. 1957:		54-0
2003		26-0	1957:	Agawam West Side	28-13
l	9		1956.		33-7
2001		14-6		West Side	
2000		17-14	1954:	Agawam	19-12
1999	· ·	27-6	1953:	Agawam	34-21
1998	S .	21-14	1952:	West Side	13-7
1997	9	27-8	1951:	Agawam	34-21
1996		29-21	1950:	Agawam	20-12
1995		7-6	1948:	West Side	18-14
1994		14-6	1947:	Agawam	13-7
1993	9	22-0	1946:	Agawam	26-0
1992		14-7	1945:	Agawam	65-0
1991		14-0	1944:	Agawam	13-0
1990		16-8	1943:	Tie	7-7
1989		12-7	1942:	Agawam	14-13
1988		22-21	1941:	West Side	13-7
1987	· ·	48-6	1940:	Agawam	27-0
1986		21-0	1939:	Agawam	7-0
1985	· ·	15-12	1938:	West Side	7-0
1984		23-6	1937:	Agawam	6-0
1983		18-7	1936:	Agawam	33-6
1982		20-3	1935:	Agawam	34-6
1981	3	13-6	1934:	Agawam	7-0
1980		26-0	1933:	Tie	0-0
1979		42-15	1932:	Agawam	19-13
1978		42-6	1931:	Agawam	34-0
1977	: West Side	28-8	1930:	Agawam	7-6
1976	J	15-14	1929:	West Side	6-0
1975		15-2	1928:	Agawam	30-6
1974		16-6	1927:	Agawam	25-0
1973	: Tie	14-14	1926:	Agawam	7-0
1972		13-12	1925:	Agawam	20-6
1971	: Agawam	28-8	1924:	Agawam	6-0



Brian Forgette chases down a loose ball. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PETER FIDALGO WWW.PETERFI-DALGOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Joe Johnston pushes up the field.



Sangmyoung Han passes to his left.



Ben Mielnikowski punts the ball away.

SOCCER ■ from page 12

was up and down--two wins, two losses; then a 1-3-2 stretch that had them at 3-5-2. The brownies won five of the next six and qualified with two to go. They finished 8-8-2 and were the eighth seed. After an impressive 6-0 win against Northampton in the first round, they had to contend with Minnechaug. The top seed Falcons proved to be too much.

Agawam was aggressive at the beginning. In the second they got a corner kick and in the third, Jonny Kelley put one on goal from 12 yards. David Walbridge made the save. In the sixth, Sangmyoumg Han hit the side of the net from 12 yards and in the 10th Jarred Drummond got Walbridge to come out on his shot from 30 yards.

Minnechaug got going in the 12th. Jacob Belemjian was short on free kick from 40; Brendan Plumb was wide right from 15 in the 13th minute. Will Ryan could not convert a cross from Steve Diefenderfer in the 14th; Mario Karam got one on Ben Mielnikowski in the 15th from 18 yards; Diefenderfer was wide left from 15 in the 18th minute.

The Brownies finally got another shot in the 19th by Luis Nieves from 25, but it was short. Minnechaug got a corner in the 20th, a Plumb shot on goal from 18 in the 21st and a wide right 18-yarder by Andrew Fidalgo. Nieves had a pair of shots in the 25th and 29th for Agawam. Walbridge saved both. He also was wide right in the 33rd. Plumb sent one over the goal from 25

in the 34th and Fidalgo did the same from 10 in the 36th.

The pressure paid off and after a clear, Minnechaug got a breakaway, where Chris Simons led one to Plumb, who converted with 3:23 to play. Han had a shot with a minute to go. At the half, it was 1-0 for Minnechaug.

Agawam picked up a corner kick 30 seconds in, but they would not do much the rest of the way. In the sixth Drummond was on goal from 15 and in the 12th, Nieves was wide left from 15. On the other end, the Falcons kept up the pressure. Simons, in the third, was on goal from 15. In the eighth, Mike Rita, who had missed nine minutes in the first half was on goal from 25. His header in the 14th set of a chain of vents that led to the Falcons second goal. He headed one from eight yards and that got the Falcons a corner kick. Fidalgo sent it into Simons, who found the back of the net at 13:36. Minnechaug led 2-0. Four minutes later, Alex Poindexter sent a cross to Diefenderfer at the 10 and it was 3-0 at 17:14.

Agawam responded and got a breakaway goal at 18:06 by Nieves to make it 3-1. The Falcons kept pushing, but also stayed back enough on defense to prevent other breakaways. With 8:20 to play Simons scored from 10 yards to make it a 4-1 game. That would be the final.

Minnechaug had a 17-3 edge in second half shots for a game lead of 28-11.



Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@ turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Nov. 18

FANDOM FRIDAY for students in grades 7-12 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Southwick Public Library, 95 Feeding Hills Road. Crafts, snacks, games, and an episode or two of a TV series or part of a movie. This month's fandom will be the Wizarding World of Harry. For more information, call 413-569-1221, ext. 3.

HOLDIDAY BAZAAR at Copper Hill United Methodist Church, 27 Copper Hill, E. Granby, Conn. today from 1 to 4 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Soup and sandwich luncheon Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 860-668-1031

A CHRISTMAS FAIR today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit www. bethany-ag.org.

Saturday, Nov. 19

SACRED HEART OF CHRISTMAS Craft Bazaar from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCH annual Christmas Craft Fair and Bake Sale today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Knights of Columbus will be serving food on Saturday. Free parking available behind the church for all. For more information, call 413-569-0162. The church is at 224 Sheep Pasture Road, Southwick.

WINTER MARKET will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., Westfield and will include vendors with seasonal products and local crafters with pottery, candles, woodcrafts and home decorating items. The building is handicap accessible with free parking, and professional babysitting is provided.

HOLLY WREATH BAZAAR at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kids can get their pictures taken with Santa as well as participate in other activities. Lunch will be available at the Christmas Café and gift baskets will be raffled off. For more information, call 413-786-7111.

BAZAAR AND CRAFT FAIR at the Heritage Hall Campus, 462 Main St., Agawam from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in all five buildings. Admission is free and lunch is available. Entrances to the Heritage Hall Campus are at 462 Main St. or 55 Cooper St. For more information, call 413-789-8332 or email nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com.

ALL-DAY CARD WORKSHOP to benefit the Westfield Athenaeum at the Central Baptist Church, 115 Elm St., Westfield from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. All materials provided. Advance registration required. Participants should bring their own lunch, or money to order from Two Rivers Burritos. To register, contact Sandra at stampinsandra@

"UNDERSTANDING YOUR BEST FRIEND" with Phil Klein, certified dog listener, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Suffield Senior Center, 145 Bridge St. Bring questions, but not your dog, to this free program. Register at 860-668-3896 or online at suffield-library.org.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Center. Santa Clause will be there from 9 a.m. until noon. Lunch will be available and the snack

Wednesday, Nov. 30

MARIANN MILLARD WILL LEAD A "MEANDER THROUGH ITALY" at 2 p.m. at the Suffield Senior Center, 145 Bridge St. To register for this free Kent Memorial Library program, call the library at 860-668-3896 or visit suffield-library.org.

Thursday, Dec. 1

SUFFIELD NATIVE ALISON MONCRIEF BROMAGE will read from her award-winning debut collection of poems, "Daughter, Daedalus" at the Suffield Academy Library on High Street in Suffield, Conn. The reading will begin at 6 p.m. To register for this free program at the Kent Memorial Library, call 860-668-3896, or visit suffield-library.

Saturday, Dec. 3

ANNUAL HOLLY BAZAAR at Southwick Congregational Church, 488 College Highway from 8:30 a.m. to 3

WORCESTER COUNTY KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW today and tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission

YULETIDE AT STORROWTON today and tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

Sunday, Dec. 4

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council 11178 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in Father Shea Hall of Our Lady of the Lake Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Road, Southwick.

Monday, Dec. 5

A CHRISTMAS DINNER at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Cost is \$10. Tickets may be reserved by calling the church office at 413-786-

Tuesday, Dec. 6

YULETIDE OPEN HOUSE TOURS today through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$5; free for children under 6.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

YULETIDE BY LANTERN LIGHT from 6 to 8 p.m. in Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$5; free for children under 6.

Thursday, Dec. 8

EASTERN DOG CLUB ALL BREED DOG SHOW today through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

Saturday, Dec. 10

WINTER MARKET will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Episcopal Church of the Atonement. 36 Court St., Westfield and will include vendors with seasonal products and local crafters with pottery, candles, woodcrafts and home decorating items. The building is handicap accessible with free parking, and professional babysitting is provided.

ANTIQUE AND MODERN FIREARMS today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$12; free for children under 12 with parent / guardian. Coupon available online.

Sunday, Dec. 11

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic will be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-

Wednesday, Dec. 14

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is

Saturday, Dec. 17

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Second Baptist Church of Suffield, 100 N. Main St. at 3 p.m. Free will offering to benefit the Fuel Bank administered by the Suffield Emergency Aid Association.

ONGOING

THE FRIENDS OF THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY'S Open Juried Art Show is on display at the Agawam Public Library through Nov. 25. The artwork may be seen Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, and can be reached by phone at 413-789-1550.

BEGINNER TAI CHI classes at the Southwick Senior Center on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Easy stretching and slow, gentle movements that improve balance and strength and enhance the immune system. For more information, call 413-569-5498.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A round-table discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more information, Lilian at 413-568-2916.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, Nov. 21: Stuffed shells and meat sauce, garden salad, apples.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: French meat pie, mashed potatoes, corn, pudding.

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Chicken pot pie, mixed vege-

closed

tables. Caesar salad, baked good. Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving. Senior Center

Friday, Nov. 25: Corn chowder, fish and cheese on a roll with lettuce and tomato, mixed fruit.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Nov. 21: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:30 a.m., line dancing, 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Writing Club; 1 p.m. Bingo; 2 p.m., monthly dance with Richie Mitnick; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold

Tuesday, Nov. 22: S.H.I.N.E. representative (by appt.); 9 a.m., exercise, open knitting / sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise; noon, ladies only billiards; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("Blended"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line

Wednesday, Nov. 23: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., ballroom lessons, scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Thursday, Nov. 24: Senior Center closed. Happy Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 25: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., Let's Paint; no tai chi today; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch,

SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

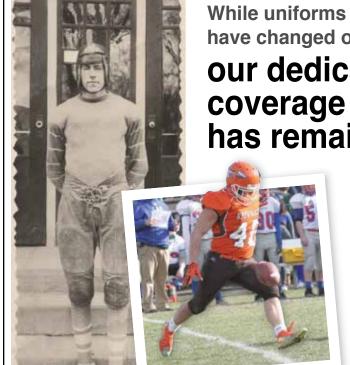
Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to: dforbes@turley.com or gscibelli@turley.com

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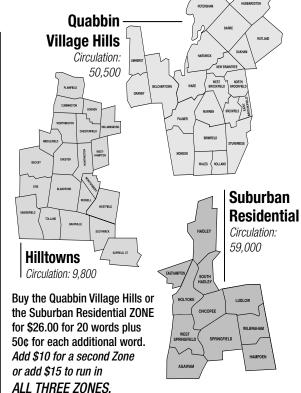
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Thursday Noon, Nov. 17th A TURLEY PUBLICATION 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 M 413-283-8393 M www.turley.com

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For the week of Nov. 21st publications

DEADLINE is

Agawam family purchases sports training facility in Westfield

WESTFIELD — Dave and Karen Sweeney of Agawam recently purchased the assets of the former Extra Innings Westfield franchise from Nabil and Julie Hannoush of Westfield. On Nov. 1, they opened their own family-run baseball and softball training facility, Players Edge New England, in the same space at 99 Springfield Road, which they will lease from the Hannoushes.

Like its predecessor, Players Edge New England will offer batting practice and player development to teams and individual baseball and softball players in the region, and the organization will also offer one-on-one coaching, practice space for the Players Edge Expos — a traveling youth baseball team — and group clinics for teams throughout

"We're as committed to softball as we are to baseball," Dave Sweeney noted.

The facility is also open to the public daily from noon to 9 p.m., and is available to businesses and corporations as staff meeting, event and retreat space. Additional hours are available upon request.

Dave Sweeney, a longtime entrepreneur and the owner of viz-bang! productions in Agawam, is excited to partner with his wife, Karen, in a venture that will also include their children, Jake Sweeney, 16, a pitcher and infielder on the Agawam High School varsity baseball team, and Julia, 13, who is active in swimming and music.

"I'm most excited about working together as a family and having something Karen and I can do together, and having it be built around baseball and youth sports is pret-



Members of the Sweeney family, from left, Julia, 13, Karen, Dave and Jake, 16. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ty awesome, too," Dave Sweeney said. "We have an opportunity to have a positive impact on the community at large."

Jake has played on area baseball teams since he began playing baseball in Agawam Little League, and Dave Sweeney has coached Agawam Little League, the Agawam High School varsity Fall League team and in the John L. Sullivan

Karen Sweeney brings financial and facilities maintenance experience, having worked in that area for Fitness First and CrossFit in Agawam and at Westfield Evangelical

"We're confident this will go well. The support we've received already has been overwhelming, and we couldn't have more supportive and generous landlords than Nabil and Julie Hannoush," Dave Sweeney said.

Players Edge New England will offer tunnel and batting cage rentals, one-on-one coaching, practice space for the Players Edge Expos, a youth traveling baseball team, group clinics for baseball and softball teams, event space rentals, softball and baseball pitching machines for use by the public daily from noon to 9 p.m., and video- and virtual-based baseball play via a Hit Trax machine.

Dave Sweeney will continue to operate his video production business, viz-bang!, on a part-time basis, and will offer video recording services at Players Edge to high school students who need a video highlighting their skills for college recruiters.

'We have well-established relationships with teams and coaches in the area, and we look forward to building on those relationships," Dave Sweeney said. "We're excited about the coaches who will be working with us because they're very committed to player development and helping young people succeed and become better at baseball and

Players Edge New England is located in the same building as the Shortstop Bar and Grill and Express Fitness.

To learn more, like the Facebook page at www.facebook. com/PlayersEdgeNE, visit www.PlayersEdgeNewEngland. com or call Dave Sweeney at 413-244-8395.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Hampden Division** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD16P1996EA Estate of: Raymond F. Lucia Date of Death: July 15, 2016 INFORMAL PROBATE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Joanne Lucia of Agawam MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Joanne Lucia of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being admin-

istered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

LEGAL NOTICE **PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM** CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, December 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., at a Regular Meeting of the Agawam City Council in the Auditorium of the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA on the proposed TR-2016-64 which is a Resolution adopting the "Stretch Energy Code" for the Town of Agawam as submitted by Councilors Rossi and Rheault. TR-2016-64 is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BY ORDER OF:

James P. Cichetti City Council President 11/17/16

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and** Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD16A0061AD CITATION

G.L. c. 210, § 6 In the matter of:

Richardson, Laura Nicole To: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A Petition has been presented to said court by: Craig A Greenough of Agawam, MA Kimberly Jeanne Hayes of Agawam, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed

to Laura Nicole Greenough. If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contaact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 AM) on: 11/25/16.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of

Date: November 4, 2016 Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate

11/17/16

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING **AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL**

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Request for a Gas Storage License at the Property located at 702 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, Ma. 01030 as submitted by Robbie L. Dineen for Soldier On. The Gas Storage License request is to place three (3) 2,000 gallon permanent propane tanks along with three (3) temporary 1,000 gallon and four (4) 120 gallon temporary above ground propane storage tanks to be used for temporary heat this fall and winter. The three (3) 2,000 gallon permanent propane tanks will not be filled until after the temporary tanks are removed from the site. A copy of the proposed Gas Storage License can be obtained from the Agawam City Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF: James P. Cichetti City Council President 11/17/18

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling) Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



Check out all the details on the web:

www.cjcevents.com

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HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to klanier@ turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x235.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Sheriff to help Cocchi transition to new post

Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe says he will put his 42 years of experience at the service of Nick Cocchi, who was elected his successor on Nov.

Ashe said he would work with Cocchi up until the start of the new six-year term, Jan. 4, to ensure "the smoothest possible transition." He predicted Cocchi would "get off to a runnning start in the transition because of his 23 years of service in county

Cocchi, who won two three-way races this year, in the general and Democratic primary elections, currently serves as assistant superintendent at the sheriff's department. Ashe, who is also a Democrat, did not run for re-election.

"I will continue to dedicate myself fully to my work as this preparation for transition takes place," Ashe said in a statement last week. "I intend to hit the finish line of my 42 years of service in full stride, and, as part of that intention, I'll do all in my power to assure that the new sheriff hits the ground running in January."

 $As he \ said \ he \ was \ prepared \ to \ work \ hand-in-hand$ with whomever Hampden County voters had select-



Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe, right, is pictured with his newly elected successor, Nick Cocchi. SUBMITTED PHOTO

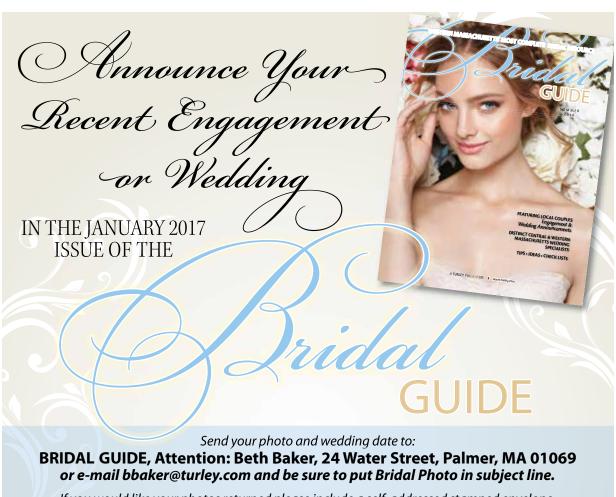
Ziegert fundraiser at '86 reunion this month

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — The Agawam High School Class of 1986 will celebrate its 30th reunion on Saturday, Nov. 26.

The reunion will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Windsor Locks, Conn., and begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person. The deadline to order tickets is Nov. 19. To order tickets, send a check payable to AHS Class of 1986 to AHS Class of 1986 c/o Cari Rocco, P.O. Box 5, Agawam, MA

This coming year also marks the 25th anniversary of the passing of 1986 graduate Lisa Ziegert. The reunion committee and her friends from the AHS community will be making donations on her behalf to the Lisa M. Ziegert Memorial Fund. Gifts made to this fund will be allocated to meet the needs of the jazz and marching bands at AHS, two organizations that had a positive impact on Ziegert.

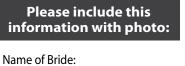
In recognition of Ziegert, classmates may make donations at the reunion. Those who are unable to attend the reunion but would still like to donate may forward their donation to Lisa M. Ziegert Memorial Fund, 58 Spruce Circle, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Please include "From the Class of 1986" on the memo line.



If you would like your photos returned please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Photo must be received by December 2, 2016.



Adam Kiefer & Maggie Shea Green Bay, WI/Wilbraham April 16, 2016



Bride's Residence:

Name of Groom:

Groom's Residence:

Date of Wedding:



Lisa Mues & Daniel Distler Warren/Rock Point, NY **September 16, 2017**



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Interdenominational Thanksgiving service set for Wednesday evening

The Agawam Clergy Association will hold its annual Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23, at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St.

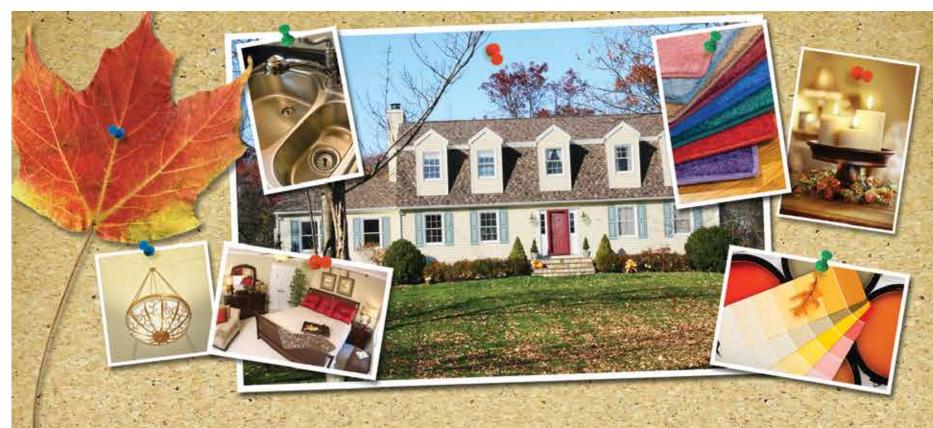
Local pastors will conduct the service. The welcome and opening prayer will be led by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Dawson, pastor

of Agawam Congregational Church, and the Thanksgiving proclamation will be led by Mayor Richard Cohen. The invocation will be led by the Rev. Timothy Reed, of Bethany Assembly of God; the Thanksgiving offering will be led by the Rev. Bill Pass, pastor of Church of Redemption; and scriptures and messages of Thanksgiving will

be offered by the Rev. George Thomson, Agawam First Baptist Church, and the Rev. Josephus Housey Jr. of Redeeming the Time Ministries. Music will be provided by Tracy Nawskon, choir director at Agawam Congregational Church.

All are welcome. Fellowship time will follow in Bryan Hall.

A free-will offering will support the Phil Coburn Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at St. Thomas in West Springfield on Thursday, Nov. 24. Agawam and Feeding Hills residents can have dinners delivered by calling the Agawam Senior Center at 413-821-0604 or 413-821-0605. Everyone is invited to St. Thomas School. Meals will be served from noon to 2 p.m.



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